

LOWER COLUMBIA – SOUTH FORK TOUTLE WINTER STEELHEAD

STOCK STATUS

1992 STATUS

Healthy

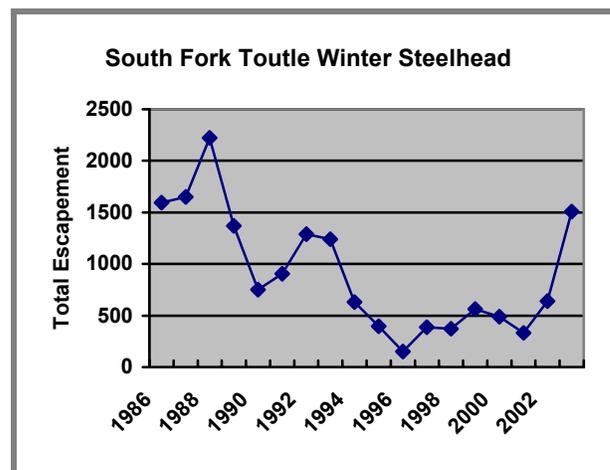
2002 STATUS

Depressed

STOCK STATUS RATING DATA

USEFULNESS FOR RATING STOCK STATUS: Good

YEAR	TOTAL ESCAPEMENT
1986	1,595
1987	1,650
1988	2,222
1989	1,371
1990	752
1991	904
1992	1,290
1993	1,242
1994	632
1995	396
1996	150
1997	388
1998	374
1999	562
2000	490
2001	348
2002	640
2003	1,510



Data are total escapement estimates based on redd counts in index areas in the mainstem South Fork Toutle from the mouth to Goat Creek and in Studebaker, Johnson, Harrington and “Loch” creeks.

Stock status is rated **Depressed** in 2002 because of **chronically low** escapements. An escapement goal of 1,058 fish has been established for this stock. Escapements have been low from 1994 to the present.

STOCK DEFINITION

South Fork Toutle winter steelhead were identified as a stock based on their distinct spawning distribution.

SPAWNING DISTRIBUTION: Most spawning takes place in the South Fork Toutle River and in tributaries such as Studebaker, Johnson, and Bear creeks.

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SPAWNING TIMING: Spawning generally occurs from March through early June.

GENETIC ANALYSIS: Genetic sampling was conducted in 1996, however comparisons of allele frequencies between this stock and other lower Columbia steelhead stocks for determining stock distinctiveness are not very informative (Myers et al. 2002).

STOCK ORIGIN

This is a **native** stock with **wild** production. Aside from several small fry plants after the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens, hatchery winter steelhead have not been stocked into the South Fork Toutle River.